

October 1, 2017

**Strengthening Our Family of Families !**

Pope Francis has invited all of us to see the parish as a family. In the same way as the individual family is the foundational unit of our entire society, the parish can be seen as the foundational unit of the local church, the one led by the Bishop at the diocesan level. In our own diocese of Washington, we have 140 parishes, each one led by a pastor appointed by the Bishop. In my seven years at OLHOC ( I arrived on September 15, 2010), I have been blessed in so many ways that I am grateful to God every day for being here with all of you. The parish is all about the people. Over our 37 years of existence, OLHOC has been blessed with so many wonderful people. We have been blessed with so many volunteers (over 300 as of today). We have been blessed to have so many children. We are truly a large, united family, a **family of families!**

Our Parish Council has debated many times how to support our families and we have responded as best as we can by improving existing programs or initiating new ones. In this important Year of Fatima, we have reflected on the key messages received by three little children, Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia, 100 years ago in Portugal. In the next two weeks, as we come close to the end of this Jubilee Year declared by Pope Francis one year ago, we have made several decisions which we hope will strengthen our family of families.

We have prayed to the Holy Spirit to guide us. We will continue to pray that the following events, already announced, will bring much fruit in strengthening our family of families:

1. **Monday, October 2, 6 pm:** Meet and Greet for OLHOC families with members who may have special needs. We want to hear your thoughts about this new program to assist the Religious Education Program.
2. **Saturday, October 7, 6:30 pm:** "Couples for Christ" Orientation Session. Pamphlets were distributed last weekend. This new initiative is to assist entire families in their Christian journey. Everyone is invited to come and listen! The presentation in the Social Hall will be followed by a dinner. Volunteers will be available at the end of each Mass to answer any questions you may have. If you are interested, please sign-up this weekend to facilitate the planning of the talk and the dinner!
3. **Sunday, October 15, 5 pm:** We have the closing OLHOC Celebration of this wonderful Year of Fatima with the visit of Bishop Dorsonville beginning at 5 pm. For details, please see the flyers available in the Narthex. We have decided to consecrate our entire parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on that day, in line with the messages of Fatima. A special consecration prayer will be distributed to all Parishioners. Stay tuned!

May the Holy Spirit continue to assist our parish! May Mary continue to protect all of us!

*One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain*

**Mass Intention**

- Saturday, Sept. 30, 5:00 PM:** OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, October 1, 8:30 AM:** Ken Stout
- Sunday, October 1, 10:00 AM:** Souls in Purgatory +
- Sunday, October 1, 11:30 AM:** Lourdes King +
- Monday, October 2, 9:00 AM:** Pauline Brooks +
- Tuesday, October 3, 9:00 AM:** Venetta Scott
- Thursday, October 5, 9:00 AM:** Roger Smith

**Prayer Requests**

We are asked to pray for: James Reinhardt, Fr. Robert Pittman, Denise Zois, Dolores Settler, Yolanda Brenoes, Elsie & Rodalin Canare, Brenda Dodson, Sarah Parker, Elaine Townley, Juliann Leginze, Randy Howells, Connie Miller, Edmond Ferguson, Josephine Manalo, Aaron Morgan, Pat Gray, John Kopec, John Cumpion, Barbara Lagman, Joe Martinez, Ann Gillespie, Julie King, Paulette Savoy, Kelvin Young, Annie Rope, Dave Biggerstaff, Jim Ritchie, Bonnie Castro, Therese Gendron, Andy Green, Judee Parkinson, Tanya A. Viola, Dolores Proctor, April Sheffield, Dr. Suresh Verghese, Marisa Costas Pena, Marino Gadea, Monica Myers, Mike Connolly, Samuel Lopez, Robin Dwars, Julieta Bool, Wilbur Etbauer, Susan Walker, Doris Conover, Elijah Larson, Sunni Park, Mireille Obas, Joan Etbauer, Joseph Cheseldine, Sr., Consuela Velasquez, Wilhelmina Franck, Tabitha Barton, Isabel Smith, Elinore Fortney, Errol Randall, Dorothea Johnson, Vanessa Barrett, Graham Baldwin, Jane Watson, Ollie Johnson, Kathy Baumgaertner, Baby Kaden, Dennis Archible Jr., Phillip Green, Doris Chesley, Patricia & James Robey, Dick White, Ada Johnson, James Thompson, Sean Guido, Marcus Williams, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

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**Mass Readings for October 8, 2017**

*27th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading-** Isaiah 5: vs. 1-7

**Second Reading-** Philippians 4: vs. 6-9

**Gospel-** Matthew 21: vs. 33-43

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**100th Anniversary Public Square Rosary**

Please join us in a **Public Square Rosary Rally** on **Saturday, October 14, 2017**. We will begin at OLHOC (100 Village St., Waldorf, MD 20602) with **11:30 am** Introductory Prayer, then process to the intersection of St. Thomas Dr and St. Charles Parkway to begin the Rosary at **12 noon**. The Public Square Rosary is sponsored by **America Needs Fatima**, and will be one of **20,000 rallies across the U.S.** that day. Please join us in offering reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to fervently pray for the conversion of the U.S. Will you join us and other Catholics on that very important day?

(Parish note: The Masses at OLHOC will include the Consecration of OLHOC to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, beginning with the Saturday evening vigil Mass at 5 pm and continue at the Sunday Masses.)

# Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2017-2018 CCD Registration is open online: [www.olhoc.org](http://www.olhoc.org).

October 1/2- CCD

October 8/9- CCD

October 15/16- CCD

Oct. 21- Conf. Yr. 2- Retreat at OLHOC (9:30 am-6 pm)

Contact **Therese Thiedeman** at 301-645-7112 or [dre@olhoc.org](mailto:dre@olhoc.org)

### Share the Faith!

Catechists, parent volunteers, and teen volunteers are needed for the CCD year. If you have ever considered answering the Lord's call to be a witness of the Faith to the children of our parish, please be sure to contact Therese or complete the RE Volunteer form online: [www.olhoc.org/revolunteer](http://www.olhoc.org/revolunteer).

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### Parish Youth Night !

**Life Teen: high school** youth ministry (Sun., 5-6:30 pm- check website)

**Edge: middle school** youth ministry (meets monthly)

**FIAT: elementary school** Faith in Action Team (meets monthly)

### Attention Families!!

The next All-Youth Night (FIAT, Edge and Life Teen) will be on October 29 and will begin with 4:00 PM Mass followed by fun! Bring your friends ! See the website at: [olhoc.org/fm](http://olhoc.org/fm).

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### Religious Education Classes for Students with Special Needs

A Meet and Greet is planned for OLHOC families with members who may have special needs on **Monday, October 2, 2017 from 6 pm to 7 pm in the Parish Social Hall**. We invite you join us to hear about the program and to share your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns.

### RCIA Invitation

Registration for the 2017-2018 RCIA class has begun. We meet on Wednesdays from **7:00-9:00 PM**. Come and meet the Team Members. If interested call the office (301-645-7112) or email [deacon@olhoc.org](mailto:deacon@olhoc.org).

### OLHOC Office Manager

Following a thorough process that included numerous qualified applicants, we would like to welcome Karen D' Alessandro as our new Office Manager, effective December 8, 2017.

### Upcoming Child Protection Classes

Upcoming sessions of "Protecting God's Children for Adults" are for those who need to become Virtus Compliant (Adults wishing to volunteer in any capacity while children are present). Go to [VIRTUS.org](http://VIRTUS.org) to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112.

### Couples for Christ

Couples for Christ is a global Catholic parish-based ministry that works for the renewal of Christian Family Life. You are invited to an **Orienta-tion session** (dinner will be served) at OLHOC on Saturday, **October 7th at 6:30 pm** in the Social Hall. Pamphlets with more information are available in the Narthex.

### Blessing of the Pets

**Saturday, October 7 at 10 am** at Mary's Statue. Bring your pets!

## OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

<http://www.olhoc.org/preschool.html>

- Fall registration continues for all new students.
- Please call 301-645-7112 or email : [pre-school@olhoc.org](mailto:pre-school@olhoc.org) for information.

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### 2017 Jubilee of Fatima Schedule

Celebrate the joy of the **100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima** right here in Charles County!

- **Friday, October 13, Sacred Heart**, La Plata, MD at **6:00 pm**. (Procession/Closing Mass)
- **Sunday, October 15, Our Lady Help of Christians**, Waldorf, MD at **5:00 pm** with Bishop Dorsonville (Living Rosary, Eucharistic Procession, then 7 pm Bilingual Mass)

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### Community Outreach

The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, October 19, 2017**. We are in need of a **menu coordinator for November**—please consider it! The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on **October 4** at 7 pm. **New members are welcome!**

**Volunteers go to: [www.olhoc.org](http://www.olhoc.org) and click on the Community Outreach link. or sign-up at: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B044FABAD2DAA8-olhc](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B044FABAD2DAA8-olhc)**

Sharing Sunday-Sharing Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Non-perishable food items and toiletries may be left in the Social Hall; donated to So. Md. Food Bank; Coat Drive-The box is in the Social Hall for new or very gently used coats, hats, etc. for adults and children to be donated to Children's Aid and local shelters.

### Annual OLHOC Craft Fair

Leaves are falling, which means it is time for our **Annual OLHOC Craft Fair!** It will be held on **Saturday, November 11, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm**. Table rentals are \$25. We are **looking for volunteers** who are willing to work at the fair. Applications are available online at [www.olhoc.org](http://www.olhoc.org) or in the church office. As we have every year, there will be an **Attic Treasures** room at the fair. If you have any new or gently-used items (no clothing or furniture, please), you may drop them off in the Social Hall on Thursday or Friday, Nov. 9/10. Also, we gladly accept donations of baked goods and useable jewelry for the OLHOC tables. **Note: OLHOC Crafters**, we need your items for our OLHOC Craft Table! For an application or **questions**, please contact **Jean (301-645-3433)** or **Marie (301-843-1062)**.

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